GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:131
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2016
Hydropower Potential in Seismic Zone
Munde Dr.Pritam Gopinath;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are widespread protests over hydropower projects from people who are at the risk of being displaced by such projects and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether most of India"s hydropower potential falls in seismic zone 5, a region classified as highly vulnerable to high intensity quakes and if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is planning an exhaustive basin-wise study of the hydropower potential in the country to gather fresh data looking at energy security other factors and if so, the details thereof and the time by which the aforesaid study is likely to be conducted; and

(d) whether any such survey was also conducted in the past and if so, the details thereof and the assessment made therein?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER,
COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

****

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.131 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 24.11.2016 REGARDING HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL IN SEISMIC ZONE.
****

(a) : Some hydro projects, both at Survey & Investigation (S&I) stage as well as construction stage, are facing protests from local people. Subansiri Lower Hydro Power Project (2000 MW) which is under construction and 12 Hydro Power Projects (above 25 MW capacity) under S&I stage, aggregating to 6118 MW are held up.

(b) : Out of the total, hydro-electric potential in the country above 25 MW capacity, estimated at 1,45,320 MW, about 50%, mainly in North-Eastern Region (NER) and some areas in Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh fall in Seismic Zone-V.

(c) : The Government is planning to review the hydro power potential of the country, which was last re-assessed during 1978-87. The re-assessment has been necessitated due to the availability of additional hydrological, topographical and other data about upstream and downstream water usages as well as the e-flow and other considerations mandated by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
(d) : Studies for re-assessment of hydro-electric potential in the country had been conducted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from 1978 to 1987, based on which, the total identified hydropower potential in the country (above 25 MW capacity) has been assessed at 1,45,320 MW.

****